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STANLEY  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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*. Annual Report .*

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,  
FOR THE YEAR 1908.

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STANLEY,  
FEBRUARY, 1909.



HARPERLEY,

FEBRUARY 3RD, 1909.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present your Council with my report upon the condition of the district in respect to the Factory and Workshops' Act, Sanitary State, Amount of Sickness, and Vital Statistics for the year, 1908.

The chief industry is coal-mining, and upon it depends practically the very existence of every other industry throughout the district. The past year has been a fairly prosperous one, the need has not arisen to lend a helping hand to the "unemployed" in the immediate neighbourhood, as unfortunately has been the case in several parts of the same County.

**Factory and Workshops' Act.**—The duty of carrying out this Act, devolves upon the Medical Officer and Inspector, who are required to visit all premises where workmen are employed, and to enquire into the conditions under which they are labouring. These conditions imply air space, no over-crowding, freedom from dampness, sufficient out-office accommodation, and easy means of escape in case of fire. There is one important item—the ascertaining if deleterious material is employed at any of the works. Again the Act lays particular stress on the examination of public bakeries, of which there is only one, situated at Stanley, under the charge of the Co-operative Society, and here all the provisions of the Act were fully carried out. With regard to the Workshops and Factories in the district, with the exception of two cases where a little whitewashing was needed, examination proved that everything was most satisfactory, and no deleterious material injurious to health was employed. The district contains altogether thirteen Factories and thirty-nine Workshops. The Factories consist of Brick-works, Cabinet-making, Shoe-repairing, Gas-making, Printing, Electric Works, Cartwrighting, Bakeries, Mineral Water Manufacturing, Smithing, and Laundry-working. The thirty-nine Workshops consist of Tailors, Milliners, Dressmakers, Plumbers, Carpenters and Joiners, Watch Repairers, and Blacksmiths.





## SURVEYOR'S AND INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT.

The activity in the building trade was continued during the past year, and the following houses were erected during that period, viz.: 6 containing three rooms each, 73 with four rooms, 23 with five, 8 with six, 1 with seven, and 1 with eight, making a total of 112. The whole are self-contained and possessed all the necessary sanitary requirements. There were also 40 tenemented houses arranged with 3 rooms each, downstairs and 4 rooms upstairs, with separate yards and conveniences to each tenement, with the exception of about 6 which have yards common to the two tenements. The majority were built for workmen's houses and are comfortable and possess every convenience.

### OLD PROPERTY.

There are many houses so-called old property that were built before control by any authority was exercised. Several have been temporarily closed for repairs and have been put into habitable condition, and the out-offices to the number of 42 have been either altered or partly re-constructed to bring them up to a more modern standard, and 5 were newly built to replace the old. Finally 110 notices were served to abate petty nuisances and were generally complied with. Regarding the houses under the heading of old property—considerable improvements have been made during the year, and are still going on, yet many exist, which, to use the mildest term, are far from comfortable habitations. As regards the legal aspect of the case, whether or not the occupiers could demand more extensive improvements is not a personal matter, but one which rests with your Council to decide. Appended is a brief account of the premises brought to your notice.

**South Moor.**—Two Rows, High South Moor, consisting of 20 houses, the Barracks 19 houses, and Quaking Houses, 50 houses—all built after the one type having one room below and one above, with a stepladder to reach the upper which is not ceiled except by the occupiers who either used wood, canvas, or paper, and these rooms also are without fireplaces. There are no back doors and, consequently no through ventilation, excepting by a small window in the



pantries at the opposite side to the door. The floors are well cemented and the walls are free from dampness, but there is no arrangement of streets. These are certainly not desirable houses to be visited by an outbreak of sickness.

**Oxhill.**—Joicey's Houses. The out-offices here have been condemned and a start has been made to replace them with a better form, but 64 are remaining to finish.

**Havannah.**—Laxey Terrace, 8 houses are built back to back, without any through ventilation. Scott Street, the houses are small, with stepladder to upper rooms and no through ventilation. George and Albert Streets are in a similar condition, it is intended however, to add a room to each house and this will be of great benefit.

**Joicey Square.**—The houses consist of two rooms. To the long row has been added a room, the two cross rows numbering 48 houses are back to back, but have been partly remedied by the introduction of ventilators. At the time of building, small gardens were parcelled out to each occupier. As gardens they are seldom used now, but ugly wooden erections take their place. If the latter were removed and the spaces cultivated, and trees added, it would present a close appearance to a popular garden city.

**High Street, Stanley.**—At the right side one half of the pantries which were jutting on to the street, have been removed to the opposite side of the house, and the transference of the remainder should follow suit. On the left-side part of the street, consisting of eight houses are back to back, without any through ventilation. Busty Row, immediately adjoining, also has back to back houses with stepladders, and damp ill-made floors, the out-offices also need to be replaced by a better sort. At a meeting with the owner, the last-mentioned defects were brought to his notice and arrangements were come to, to carry out the improvements. There are other defective premises in the district, but the above are the most important. Minute details have not been given as the property is well known to your Council, and whether legal proceedings are taken or not, your Council's influence in using a little pressure may have a beneficial effect in remedying the major portion of the defects.





**Scavenging and Removal of Refuse** is carried out by contract under the supervision of the Inspector. The places of deposit for this refuse are not inconveniently near the dwelling houses to cause any unpleasantness, it may however, become necessary to procure some method of disposal, than merely levelling up depressed spaces on the surface. The drainage to every village is complete and the sewage is treated on the bacteriological system, at two outfall works. The effluent from both have been uniformly excellent and reflects the highest credit upon your Surveyor who constructed them. There are a few blocks of houses unattachable to the existing works that will need a small scheme of filtration notably: Red Row and Kyo Lane on the west side of the district, and the major portion of Kip Hill on the east side. The sewage from the few houses at East Kyo is distributed over land. **Slaughter-Houses** are kept in a cleanly condition, and in conformity with the Bye-laws.

**The only Licensed Lodging-House** is built on a fairly good model, and the laws relating to houses of that kind are complied with; the house is quite equal to the company it has to entertain.

There is a plentiful supply of Milk delivered in the district from door to door. The purveyors consist of four milk dealers who import the milk and eight cow-keepers, the latter are resident farmers. The Byres are made on the same model and are fairly well ventilated, but the cows are often in a dirty condition from lack of litter, and occasionally resting on their own dung. The vessels for storing the milk are kept clean or decomposition sets in, to the loss of the seller.

**The Water Supply** comes from the Weardale and Consett Works, and is abundant and of good quality, the source is from upland.

## SICKNESS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The number of notifiable diseases reported during the past year amounted to 121 made up of the following diseases, viz.: 43 of Scarlatina, 46 of Diphtheria, 21 of Enteric Fever, 1 of continued Fever, and 10 of Erysipelas.

**Scarlatina** may be considered a permanent resident in colliery villages, and this is in a measure due to the peeling of the patient in the convalescent



stage or when recovery has taken place. The particles in the infectious state are distributed over the premises, and often beyond the reach of disinfection, and evidently retain their vitality for a long period.

**Diphtheria's** mode of propagation seems to be in long retention of infection on the person after perfect recovery has taken place—and also the unrecognised cases play a part.

**Enteric Fever** appeared occasionally throughout the year, giving a total of 21 cases altogether, resulting in 8 fatalities. Its greatest incidence occurred in the hottest month of the year. The County M.O.H has expressed surprise that the males infected with Enteric Fever are in so large a majority over the females, and wonders if the work at the mine has any bearing upon it. The same disparity occurs here, there were 14 males to 7 females. Inhaling sewer gas renders the subject very susceptible to Enteric Fever, perhaps the same result may follow breathing impure air or stythe. There is one cause that may account for the conveyance of all kinds of infection, viz: the constant friendly visiting of the healthy to the sick before ascertaining the nature of the sickness and this "duty" often devolves upon the man who has more time at his disposal for the purpose.

**The Hospital for Infectious Diseases** has been a great boon to the district, to its presence may be attributed the curtailment of infectious diseases and probably the prevention of an epidemic. The number of "Hospital diseases" that appeared during the course of the year was 111, and of this number 94 were admitted to that Institution—a satisfactory state of things which was largely due to the persuasive tongue of your Inspector. A few of the remaining cases were not removable for several reasons, but in everyone that had home treatment a separate room was available for isolation.

## NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

**Measles** invaded the district once, and ceased without spreading.

**Whooping Cough** was present at the beginning of the year and continued more or less for six months—at least, it was never entirely absent during that





time. It never assumed the form of an epidemic, and the number was not sufficient to materially reduce the attendance at school.

**Diarrhœa and Epidemic Enteritis** were very prevalent during the hot weather, so much so, that it almost amounted to an epidemic, as the weather cooled, the outbreak rapidly ceased.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births and deaths registered during the year amounted to 816 of the former and 372 of the latter, giving a birth-rate of 39·8 and a death-rate of 18·14 per 1,000, estimating the population at 20,500 at the end of June. The increase of 1,500 for the past year may appear large, but according to house census, the population at the present moment is calculated at 21,300, and should the increase continue at the same ratio, the number at the end of next June should be over another 1,500. The birth-rate is above the County average, as is also the death-rate.

The mortality from Zymotic Diseases was as follows, viz.: Scarlatina 1, Diphtheria including Croup 3, Enteric Fever 8, Measles 1, Whooping Cough 29, and Diarrhœa including Epidemic Enteritis 14, making a total of 56.

Infantile Mortality was abnormally high, reaching 191·17 per 1,000 Births against 177·6 for the previous year. The number of deaths under the age of one year came to 156 being considerably over a third of the total deaths. It will be noticed that this infantile mortality was largely responsible for the increased death-rate. A glance at Table V. shews the various causes of death among infants, but it may not be amiss to direct your attention to some of the causes, for instance, Premature Birth and Congenital Defects return 25 deaths, and 30 were due to Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus, the former were not expected to live, and the latter would have caused some surprise if they had not died. Owing to the smart outbreak of Diarrhœa and Enteritis, the fatalities were 21. Whooping Cough gave 15, and Diseases of the Air Passages 32, the last three diseases were abnormally large in fatal cases.





By adopting the Notification of Births' Act, 1907, your Council has taken a sensible step. The Health Visitor appointed, thoroughly understands her duties and what is of the most importance, the mothers receive her kindly, and accept willingly the advice given them.

The original Small Pox Hospital at Maiden Law has been transformed into a Sanatorium, to which the Guardians send the Phthisical cases. Patients are also accepted through the advice of your M.O.H., and charged to your Authority.

The following table gives the averages of births and deaths for the County in comparison with those of the district:

					COUNTY		STANLEY.	
Birth-rate (per 1,000 population)	...	...	...	37·0	...	...	39·8	
Death-rate	„	„	...	17·5	...	...	18·14	
Zymotic Death-rate	„	...	...	2·70	...	...	2·73	
Infantile mortality-rate (per 1,000 births)	...	..	151	...	...	191·17		
Small-pox (per 1,000 population)	...	...	...	Nil	...	...	Nil	
Scarlet Fever	„	„	...	0·07	...	...	0·04	
Diphtheria and Croup	„	...	...	0·18	...	..	0·14	
Enteric Fever	„	...	...	0·18	...	...	0·39	
Measles	„	„	...	0·27	...	...	0·04	
Whooping Cough	„	„	...	0·53	...	...	1·41	
Diarrhœa	„	„	...	1·44	...	...	0 68	
Phthisis	„	„	...	0·95	...	...	1·26	
Other Tubercular Diseases	„	...	...	0·70	...	...	0·75	
Acute Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	2·81	...	...	3·70	

For further particulars see Government Schedules attached.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

*T. BENSON,*

MEDICAL OFFICER.

*The Urban District Council,  
Stanley.*



TABLE I.

STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1908 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Population Estimated to middle of each Year	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.						Deaths of non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NET DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT	
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 year of Age.		At all Ages.						Number	Rate •
				Number	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Number	Rate *						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1898	12,000	508	42·3	104	204·7	226	19			12	238	18	
1899	12,500	493	39·3	101	204·7	219	17·5			6	225	18	
1900	13,200	512	38·8	81	156	215	16·3			7	222	17	
1901	13,600	564	41·5	96	107·2	246	18			10	256	18·8	
1902	14,300	556	39	112	201·1	266	18·6			6	272	18·8	
1903	15,500	623	40	111	176·5	267	17			14	281	18	
1904	17,000	636	37·41	109	171·5	274	16·1			9	283	16·5	
1905	17,500	688	39·3	114	165·7	255	14·5			12	267	15·2	
1906	18,300	758	40·9	122	160·95	272	14·9			13	285	15·6	
1907	19,000	715	37·6	127	177·6	285	15			8	293	15·42	
Averages for years 1898—1907	15,290	605	39·61	108	172·6	252	16·69			9	262	17·13	
1908	20,500	816	39·8	156	191·17	349	17·02			23	372	18·14	

\* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13, calculated per 1,000 of Estimated population

At Census of 1901—Total population at all ages, 13,554; Number of inhabited houses, 2,302; Average number of persons per house, 6·7.  
Area of District in Acres, 3,593





TABLE III.

STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1908.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	AT AGES—YEARS.						Total Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65	65 and upwards
Small-pox							
Cholera							
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	46		6	31	7	2	37
Erysipelas	10					9	1
Scarlet Fever	43		11	28	4		37
Typhus Fever							
Enteric Fever	21			8		13	19
Relapsing Fever							
Continued Fever	1					1	1
Puerperal Fever							
Plague							
Totals ... ..	121		17	67	11	25	94

Isolation Hospital—Tanfield Hospital in Tanfield; Total beds available—59; No. of Diseases that can be concurrently treated—4 or 5.



TABLE IV.

# STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1908.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.
	At all ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.	
Measles	1	1		1				
Scarlet Fever	1							
Whooping Cough	29	15	12	2				
Diphtheria & Membranous Croup	2	1	1					
Croup	1							
Enteric Fever	8			1	2	5		
Epidemic Influenza	2			1		1		
Diarrhoea	14	11	3					
Enteritis	27	17	6	1	4	2	2	
Phthisis	26		2	6	2	18	1	
Other Tubercular Diseases	16		6			2		
Cancer, malignant disease	9					3		
Bronchitis	32	15	7		1	6	5	
Pneumonia	42	17	15	2	2	4	1	
Pleurisy	1					5	1	
Other diseases of respiratory organs	1				1		1	
Alcoholism Cirrhosis of Liver	4							
Premature Birth	15	15				2		
Diseases, accidents of parturition	1					1		
Heart Diseases	29					16	13	
Accidents	6	1	1	2		2		
All other Causes	105	63	5		2	20	15	
All Causes	372	156	59	16	14	84	43	



TABLE V.

STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT.

INFANTILE MORTALITY during the Year 1908.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under week	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-2 months.	2-3 months.	3-4 months.	4-5 months.	5-6 months.	6-7 months.	7-8 months.	8-9 months.	9-10 months.	10-11 months.	11-12 months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
Measles										1						1	1
Diphtheria & Membranous Croup				1	1	3	3	3	1	1	1	1				1	1
Whooping Cough								7		2					1		15
Diarrhoea, all forms						3	1	4		1	1	1				1	11
Enteritis						3	2	1		1			3				17
Gastritis							1	1	1								3
Premature Birth	11	1	1	1	14	1											15
Congenital Defects	5		1	2	8	1						1					10
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	11	1	2	2	16	4	1	3	3		3						30
Tuberculous Peritonitis													1			1	2
Meningitis				1	5	1	3		1				2				1
Convulsions		2	2	1		1	3	1	6		1						12
Bronchitis				1	1	3	3	3			1						15
Pneumonia		1	1	1	2	2	2	3	1		1		4	1	1		17
Other causes	1		1	1	3				1						2		6
	28	5	8	9	50	18	16	22	14	5	8	3	10	1	5	4	156

Population—20,500. Births in the year—legitimate, 786; illegitimate 30. Deaths in the year of legitimate infants, 150; illegitimate, 6. Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 372.





*Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health  
for the Year 1908,  
for the Urban District of Stanley.*

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INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES.

PREMISES.		INSPECTIONS.	WRITTEN NOTICES.	PROSECUTIONS.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)		13	Nil	Nil
Workshops	„ Workshop „	39	Nil	Nil
Total ... ..		52		

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DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

PARTICULARS.					FOUND.	REMEDIED.
Want of Cleanliness (Whitewashing) ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	2

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REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Wholesale Bakery	...	...	...	...	...	1
Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	39
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	12
Total ... ..						52

